

Collaborative on Energy Solutions for Low Income Communities
Meeting Summary
1/10/2017

Attendees: DOE-Michael DiRamio, DOE-Krystal Laymon, DOE-Danielle Sass Byrnett, DOE-Christina Bowman, DOE-Elaine Ulrich, DOE-Dave Rinebolt, DOE-Heidi VanGenderen, HHS-Lauren Christopher, HHS-Holly Ravensloot, HUD-Crystal Bergman, EPA-Mustafa Ali, EPA-Andrea Denny, NOAA/CNS-Rachel Jacobson, WH/CEQ-Mark Antoniewicz, NREL-Monisha Shah

Agency Announcements:

- Michael, DOE – Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator aims to lower energy bills in low income communities through expanded installation of energy efficiency and distributed renewables. Although the primary objective of increasing clean energy installations in low income communities is to help lower energy costs, a number of additional benefits would be provided.
- Lauren, HHS – on LIHEAP, working on a lot of resources such as a best practice guide; would like to resurrect REACH pilot program to encourage energy independence for LIHEAP eligible recipients, but program currently not funded
- Holly, HHS – LIHEAP / policy and evaluation office – issue guidance and conduct analysis; can / do advise grant recipients without always issuing formal guidance
- Mustafa, EPA – good parallels with this taskforce and the work EPA does with EJ, for example we have \$27 million in grants and cooperative agreements for EJ, including EJ small grants
- Andrea, EPA – State & Local climate & energy program offers a lot of TA for localities who seek to reach the underserved; working with Jacob Moss (Deputy Div Dir); recent efforts to use EPA's portfolio manager to benchmark public housing
- Crystal, HUD – Office of Economic Development, Energy Team supports SF families and LMI tenants by paying \$7B/year on utility bills. Currently working to benchmark public housing, partner with DOE on BBC -- running MF (>100 MF partners committed to reduce energy use 20% in 10 years); focus right now is on Renew 300 = 300 MW goal for renewables onsite or through community solar by 2020
- Rachel, NOAA – run Resilience AmeriCorps under AmeriCorps Vista focused on clean energy and housing in low income communities; have TA and training partnership but want more; want more federal agency partners; interested in analysis and impacts
- Elaine Ulrich, DOE – Lots of SunShot LMI initiatives in the past couple of years, most recently: Solar in Your Community, which is a \$5 million competition that's currently accepting applications.
- Monisha, NREL - Supporting SunShot, developed solar SIR tool; will send around / could offer a demonstration for this group

Discussion on codifying group before new leadership, or get buy-in from new team? Heidi, Danielle discussion on WH versus Staff level operation. Intention is to have the interagency taskforce continue on a staff level. Key messages: seeking to be as effective as possible at a staff level, looking to cost-effectively leverage knowledge and resources for taxpayers

Discussion on draft charter language:

- Heidi to follow up offline with Michael on charter language on making a BUSINESS case for the collaborative
- Suggestion to add language on INCREASING THE VALUE of federal products & services as an aspect of the collaborative

- Suggestion to add language of lowering COST / increasing AFFORDABILITY, stronger language about lowering costs
- Breaking out clean energy language versus energy efficiency “energy waste” or “reducing energy consumption”
- HUD is shifting to HIGH PERFORMANCE building language from renewables / green
- Suggestion to touch on ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT for vulnerable communities. Is there a way to draw out / showcase COMMUNITY contributions when speaking about LMI, being mindful of INCLUSION
- Clarify that the first bullet relates to EXISTING efforts, and that it will be helpful to share information / break down silos (vs ‘alignment’ which can be tough to do)

Action Items:

- DOE to distribute a revised guidance document draft to folks in January
- Receive feedback from Agencies on guidance document language BY MARCH 3, 2017.
- Identify co-Agency Chair (need a volunteer)
- Schedule next meeting (April, doodle poll to be sent out, location at a different Agency—need a volunteer)
- Identify topic for next meeting (Crystal suggestion to table choosing a topic for meetings for later)
- Create a listserv or email distribution list for the group
- Invite USDA and other appropriate agencies (Send suggested contacts to Michael to include in next meeting invite)
- DOE to distribute the SunShot SIR calculator and set up an optional webinar training on its use.